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Chroniclers 331*

great value for Roger's reign, but he describes in some detail the struggle of Lothar and Innocent over Rainulf's investiture, and he has some happy phrases, as when he speaks of Bohemuhd as *semper impossibilia, petens*.*

Great as is the value of Hugo Falcandus, "the Tacitus of Sicily," his works touch only upon Roger's reign as the Golden Age of justice and national unity to which the era of his son and grandson form the saddest contrast. Of foreign extraction, Falcandus in his *Liber de regno Sicilie*, which covers the years 1154 to 1169, and his *Epistola ad Petrum Panormitanum ecclesiarum thesaurarium*, shows himself the strongest partisan of the native nobles whom Roger II. had excluded from the administration and of the native dynasty against the German claimant, Henry VI. Although the cause of the nobility was not that of the Moslems, yet he pleads for the "Union of Hearts" which obtained in Roger's reign and a revival of the toleration-policy which the end of William II.'s reign saw on the verge of overthrow. Of his virile Latin and vigorous pen nothing need be said; on social life and the intercourse of the races in Sicily he is most illuminating; for

instance, as it was under Roger, is
sketched in
living colours. He pays also a vigorous
tribute to
the greatness of Roger.²

¹ Anno iin, Del Re, i.

^a Falcandus's whole works are to be found in
Fonti per la Storia
& *Italia*. . . . Istituto storico Italiano, 1897.